



TALES FROM THE WASTE-LESS LAND

Master Recycler Composter (MRC) Newsletter

Summer 2003

Curbside Recycling Changes!

Curbside recycling changes are underway for Waste Management residents in unincorporated King County. You may be asked about these changes through your volunteer outreach efforts. Waste Management is changing to a single-stream collection system. Customers will experience three changes in their curbside recycling:

- ◆ New 96-gallon single-stream collection cart (replacing former three-bin system)
- ◆ Every other week collection schedule
- ◆ Collection of additional recyclables

Waste Management will be collecting all recyclables from one new convenient blue recycling cart, including these **new** materials:

- ◆ Milk cartons and freezer boxes
- ◆ All plastic bottles and dairy tubs (*yogurt, etc.*)
- ◆ Scrap metal (*pans, plumbing parts, etc.*)

The new All-in-One carts are easier to use (no more sorting!), safer for both residents and collectors (no more heavy lifting!) and neater (no more scattered recyclables!). The recyclables will be processed at Waste Management's new Cascade Recycling Center in Woodinville. New technology makes it cost efficient for Waste Management to

collect all recyclables together and sort them at the recycling facility with state-of-the-art equipment (see http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2001351046_recycle01e.html).

Yes, even glass and paper can be collected together! These

changes began in early August for South King County residents (unincorporated King County, north and south divided at I-90, Seatac, Burien, and Newcastle) and will begin in September for residents in north unincorporated King County.

As of early August, recyclables from multi-family complexes will be collected in one container and the following new materials will be collected: Milk cartons and freezer boxes, all plastic bottles and dairy tubs (*yogurt, etc.*)

For further details, visit these websites or call Waste Management at 1-800-592-9995:

South King County: <http://wmnorthwest.com/skingcounty/index.html>

North King County: <http://wmnorthwest.com/nkingcounty/index.html>

In addition to the above changes, Kirkland recently signed a new

contract with their hauler, Waste Management, to collect and recycle scrap electronics and textiles at the curb, as well as food waste (See the following article and website for more details: http://seattlepi.nwsources.com/local/131289_cfoodwaste18.html). Kirkland's enhanced single-family recycling program will begin December 1, 2003. Redmond is on the brink of following suit and these changes could have implications for other cities in King County as contracts come due over the next several years. In terms of single family curbside recycling, this is pretty progressive! Rabanco is considering a single-stream collection system, though plans have not yet been confirmed.



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June Cedar Grove Tour

On June 7th, 11 MRC 's attended a continuing education tour of the Cedar Grove Composting Facility. We began our tour by viewing a PowerPoint presentation by our own Karen May about the successes of King County's 2002 Food Waste Composting Pilot Project. After the presentation, Jerry Bartlett, Manager of Cedar Grove, led a tour of the facility with an up-close look at their new process for handling food waste and yard waste composting. All attendees were fascinated by the new composting system and posed great questions to the Cedar Grove staff, including how compost quantity and product quality might change as a result of the process.

In 2002, Cedar Grove Composting began implementing a technology upgrade incorporating a Gore Cover™ In-Vessel System. The Gore Cover™, manufactured by Gore Creative

Technologies Worldwide, utilizes positive aeration and a specially designed cover to create an enclosed system that controls odors and microorganism populations and creates a consistent process unaffected by outside environmental conditions. Medium pressure aerators connect to in-floor aeration pipes or in-floor aeration ducts. Stainless steel probes inserted into the pile monitor oxygen and temperature parameters. The data is relayed to a computer and stored. This data controls the aerators to keep pile environmental conditions consistent.

After a pile is constructed, the Gore Cover™, a specially developed Gore-Tex membrane laminated between two polyester layers, is pulled over the pile. The cover protects the pile from weather conditions, but allows release of CO₂. These controlled

conditions allow consistent production without the risk of damp pockets that would result in anaerobic conditions and, therefore, increased odors. The Gore Cover™ controls odor emissions in three ways:

- ◆ Prevents the formation of anaerobic pockets,
- ◆ Acts as a physical barrier against gas escaping from the decomposing pile, and
- ◆ Controls condensation on the interior of the cover.

A fine film of condensation develops during the composting process that collects on the inside of the cover. The moisture helps to dissolve the gases and the condensation drips back onto the pile, continuing the composting process.

Feedstock materials are unloaded and mixed in a tipping building, then pass through a portable grinder as is currently done with Zone 7 and the post-consumer foodwaste from pilot projects. The new system will shorten the time required to produce finished, premium compost, as follows:

- ◆ First zone - Four weeks - Material stays on the initial placement zone in-vessel.
- ◆ Second zone - Two weeks - Material moved to another in-vessel zone with minimal addition of water as the initial moisture within the system and only releases nominal amounts.
- ◆ Third Zone - Two weeks - The final move is to a third uncovered zone.
- ◆ Screening - Material will be screened then ready to sell within 15 days.

We are certainly lucky to have such an innovative recycling facility right here in our backyard!

Great Strides: Curbside Food Waste Collection Goes Full-Scale!

Momentum on the food waste recycling collection front has been building as a result of the pilot projects that King County has had underway since April 2002(see Spring 2003 *Tales*). Kirkland officials signed a contract in July to spread their program citywide, expanding it from 225 households to more than 10,000 in December. Food waste, including food-soiled paper such as napkins, paper plates, pizza boxes, will be collected weekly with yard waste in residents' existing yard

waste cart. There will be no extra cost to customers for collecting food waste. Textiles and electronics will be collected, too! Redmond will follow soon and Bellevue is pursuing food waste collection as a part of their hauler contract negotiations. The next food waste frontier for the Solid Waste

Division (SWD) is to move from assisting cities with initiating collection to UTC unincorporated areas and commercial customers. The SWD is looking at developing pilots for these targets in 2004.





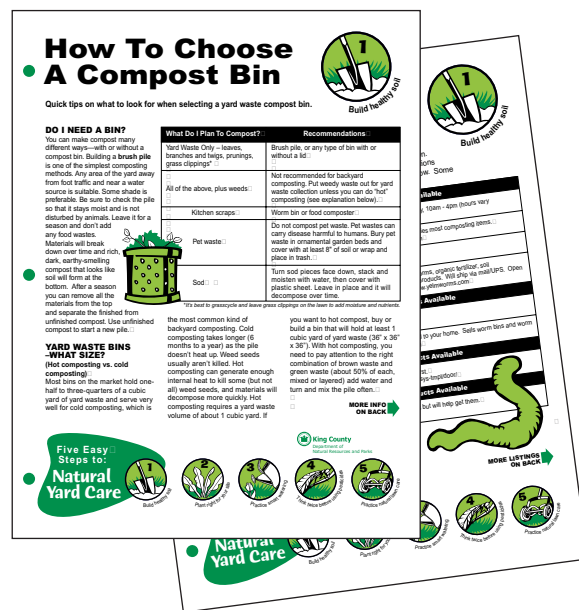
New Look for SWD Education Flyers

You may notice changes in the organics related educational materials that the SWD provides for your outreach efforts. We have dusted off the former materials to update their information, give them a fresh look and unify them around a common theme: five key natural yard care messages. You may recall reading about these messages in the Winter issue of *Tales*. The key messages are not new—they are a composite of all the messages that different local agencies have used for years. They focus on five topics: soil, water, plants, pests and lawns. The messages are:

- 1 Build healthy soil
- 2 Plant right for your site
- 3 Practice smart watering
- 4 Think twice before using pesticides
- 5 Practice natural lawn care

The first education piece to promote these key messages was the booklet *Natural Yard Care: 5 Easy Steps*, released earlier this year. Two more educational pieces have been developed since then: a one-page version of the salient points from the booklet and “How to Choose a Compost Bin”, replacing the former “Guide to Yard Waste Bins”. Our new print distribution plan is to provide a PDF file of education pieces on line so they are available to print out as needed (<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/composting/Binguide.pdf>). We will also have printed copies available for the public, including copies for the MRCs to distribute through outreach

efforts. Printed copies are now available for your outreach efforts by calling the MRC Hotline at 206-343-8505. More new education pieces to follow!



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 6th - for WSU-CE's 2nd Annual Stewardship Picnic

This year's stewardship picnic – for Master Recycle Composters, Master Gardeners, Land/Water Stewards, and other local volunteers – will be held at Seward Park, Seattle, in conjunction with an EarthCorps service event. You are all invited to join in this fun, interactive opportunity.

The purpose of this event is to:

- *Show appreciation to volunteers,
- *Provide a time for volunteers to

network with other WSU Environmental Stewards,

*Discover other stewardship opportunities within WSU and the local community, and

*Help EarthCorps reach its goal of removing all the English Ivy from Seward Park by the end of 2003

The event will also include educational opportunities, a barbecue, and a program with speakers highlighting the importance and positive

impact volunteers have on our communities and the environment.

The planning team is busy brainstorming potential community partners and funding opportunities for this event. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them.

Please mark September 6th on your calendar and plan to join us for this day of fun and celebration of all the great programs that WSU-CE has to offer. Stay tuned for additional details.

Rescheduled Mrc Advanced Training Reminder:

The 2003 MRC Advanced Training on Household Hazardous Waste has been postponed. The new training dates are November 13th, 15th and 17th.

You are re-invited to this FREE 12-hour advanced training on Household Hazardous Waste. The training will include two evening classes and one Saturday workshop led by local experts from King County, Washington Toxics Coalition and WSU Cooperative Extension. Join us to learn about these important issues that affect the health of our homes and communities. We will explore what the main concerns are, the best ways to deal with them, and of course, tools to help MRCs educate citizens in King County about Household Hazardous Waste issues.

The revised schedule is as follows;

Workshop #1 - HHW Priorities in King County - Thursday, November 13th, King Street Center, 6:30-9:00pm.

Workshop #2 - Handling, Processing and Disposal of HHW - Saturday, November 15th, WSU CE Cougar Room, 9:00am-3:00pm.

Workshop #3 - Tools for Educating the Public - Monday, November 17th, Issaquah Salmon Hatchery, 6:30-9:00pm.

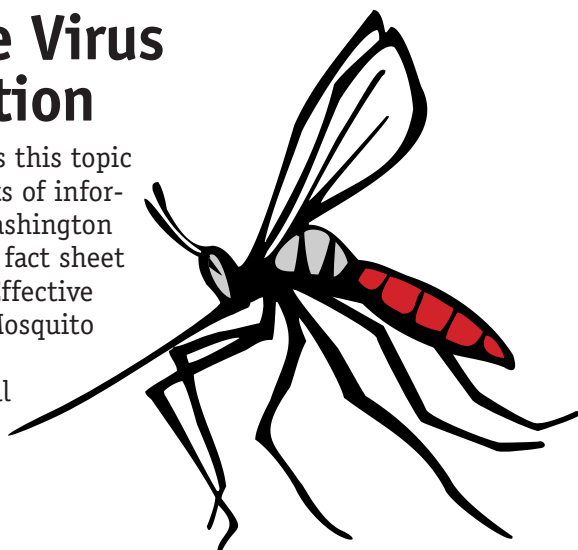
To sign up for one or all three of these training sessions, please contact Darcy Batura at 206-205-3130 or darcy.batura@metrokc.gov.

The National Waste Prevention Coalition Valuable Information Resource

Waste prevention is a simple concept: If you create less waste, you consume fewer resources and you don't have to spend as much money to recycle or dispose of your waste. You can access a wealth of information on the topic through the National Waste Prevention Coalition (NWPC) Web site at <http://www.metrokc.gov/nwpc>. The coalition is coordinated by the King County Solid Waste Division. The goals of the NWPC are to prevent waste from being created, and to reduce the use of resources. Although the NWPC is primarily made up of people working in the solid waste management field, anyone is welcome to receive the NWPC e-mail newsletter, the Waste Prevention Forum, which features lively discussions on a variety of waste reduction topics. The archives of the Forum are at <http://www.reuses.com/nwpcarchive>. If you'd like to receive the Forum via e-mail, contact Tom Watson at tom.watson@metrokc.gov.

West Nile Virus Information

For a great summary that puts this topic into perspective and offers lots of information about controls, the Washington Toxics Coalition offers a great fact sheet titled, "Mosquito Megabites: Effective Mosquito Control". To read "Mosquito Megabites: Effective Mosquito Control" in its entirety, as well as other WTC publications, visit http://www.watoxics.org/redirect/PUB_LIST.aspx?fromMenu=1&pos=4|0&name=PUB_LIST#1.



Fibres Newsflash

Fibres International recycling facility has left Bellevue. See the following article for details: <http://www.kingcountyjournal.com/sited/story/html/138214>

September Standard Training Details & Schedule

Remember how much fun you had when you took the MRC training classes? The 2004 standard training - moved to the fall this year - is almost upon us and we need your help in recruiting interested trainees. Please spread the word

and consider taking the course again yourself as a refresher. A flyer with details is enclosed with this issue of Tales. Contact Karen May for further information at karen.may@metrokc.gov or 206-296-4353.



If you would like to highlight an MRC for a job well done, this is the place. Call the hotline with your nominations (206-343-8505)!

Master Recycler Composters

In the Sun

If you would like to highlight an MRC for a job well done, this is the place. Call the hotline with your nominations (206-343-8505).

Congratulations to **Barbara Odermatt (Class #22)** who recently reached her 40 hours of volunteer outreach! Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication Barbara!

Special recognition and a big THANK YOU also go out to **Deborah Stuart (Class #23)**, who recently gained over 100 outreach hours! In case you missed her debut appearance at this past spring's special recycling event in



Deb Stuart as the Waste Management Recycle Bug

SeaTac, check out Deb, a.k.a Waste Management's Recycle Bug! Deb was a hit with the recycling crowd – look for her soon at an event near you!!

Selim Uzuner (Class #19) has long been achieving recycling feats at Tolt Middle School in Carnation. Read about his continuing efforts through the King County Solid Waste Division's Green Schools program in the following article from the Seattle Post-Intelligencer: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/128915_cggreen01.html. Way to go, Selim!

Janet Pierson (Class 24) and **Steve Tracy (Class 7)** recently stepped up to the plate and built a worm bin and 3-bin yard waste compost system, in time for a water-wise demonstration garden that was unveiled at the Woodinville Water District's Open House at the end of June. Janet even landed her mug shot and a quote in the Woodinville Weekly July 7. Thanks so much for sharing your time and talent!

There's no present like the time!

Are you interested in the growing movement to re-think and be responsible for our own time? Born out of the Simplicity Forum, an alliance of international leaders, the Take Back Your Time Day campaign is challenging us all to be more conscious of our use of time. Overscheduling with work, "extracurricular" activities, family, and everything else can result in

stress (illness, upset relationships, less than effective work and creativity) and waste (purchase of convenience items just to "survive," impulse purchase of treats and stuff for compensation, money, life energy, and more). An opportunity lies ahead if you want to participate in this discussion with others:

Take Back Your Time Day, October 24, 2003. Seattle and many other places will join in hundreds of activities (internationally) to initiate a much-needed conversation about work/life balance and how we can reclaim it. For more information or to subscribe to the Take Back Your Time Day newsletter, visit <http://www.timeday.org/> email.

HAVE YOU REACHED 40 YET?



Whether you're still on your way to completing your 40 hours of MRC outreach, or you've far surpassed that goal and are still an active volunteer, please don't forget to turn in your outreach hours. Each and every hour you give back as an MRC volunteer is appreciated and important to the life of the overall program. You can enter in your hours online or call the MRC Hotline for a blank form. If you are wondering how many volunteer hours you have completed, please contact Nanda via the MRC Hotline.

MRC HOTLINE: 206-343-8505

MRC WEBSITE: <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/recycling/master.shtml>

Wanted: Mrc Expertise At Fall Events

Various program and city recycling coordinators are looking for your waste reduction expertise at outreach events coming up this fall. Please read through the list of volunteer opportunities and call the MRC Hotline (206-343-8505) to sign up for a shift.

Saturday, September 6 – Molbak's Nursery Question & Answer Table (Woodinville) – SHIFT: 10am-12pm.

Saturday, October 4 – Molbak's Nursery Q&A – SHIFT: 10am-12pm.

Saturday, October 4 – Issaquah Salmon Days, City of Issaquah's "Refuse Rangers Booth". SHIFTS: 8am-12pm, 12-4pm, 4-7:30pm.

Saturday, October 4 – Issaquah Salmon Days, King County's Household Hazardous Waste Interactive Children's Exhibit. SHIFT: 12-4pm.

Sunday, October 5 – Issaquah Salmon Days, "Refuse Rangers Booth". SHIFTS: 8am-12pm, 12-4pm, 4-7:30pm.

Sunday, October 5 – Issaquah Salmon Days, HHW Children's Exhibit. SHIFT: 12-4pm.

Saturday, October 25 – Teach a class on Healthy Soils to Issaquah residents. SHIFT: 9-10am.

Sign up for an event today! Call the mrc hotline at 206-343-8505 or visit the mrc website at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/swd/resrecy/recycling/master.shtml>

Swap & Save

Please call the Hotline (206-343-8505) if you have any extra materials or if you are looking for something in particular. Your request and/or list of extra materials will appear in this section of the next MRC newsletter.

A neighbor of MRC Janet Pierson has horse manure to give away. If you are interested in this FREE resource, please call Cindy at 425-652-7489.

A local EP office receives up to 500 binders per week that it cannot use! If you know of any public or non-profit entities that could use them, please contact Peter Rebenstein, EPA Disaster Response Coordinator, 206-663-1067.



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks

Solid Waste Division

Attn: Karen May
King Street Center
201 S. Jackson St.
Seattle, WA 98104-3855